REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the drawings, specification, and title of the invention have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. For this reason, withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicants' admitted prior art. In response, Applicants amended claims 1 and 9 to clarify that the specific region extends through an angular range smaller than 360°, and respectfully traverse.

In the Office Action (Paper No. 4), the Examiner argues that Applicants' admitted prior art discloses a disk unit having a controller which controls a movement of the head so that the loading operation and the unloading operation are carried out in a specific region on the disk, with this specific region extending for an angular range smaller than 360°, based on Applicants' specification pg. 3, lns. 24-28. Applicants' respectfully disagree with this statement.

As illustrated in FIG. 3, Applicants disclose that in order to prevent an error caused by damage to the disk 111 by the head during a ramp load and/or unload operation, a data recording prohibit region Ad is provided on the disk 111. FIG. 3 shows that the data recording prohibit region Ad has a circumferential range of 360°. Applicants further state in the specification, (pg. 3, lns. 31-34), that the data recording prohibit region Ad has a ring shape and is indicated by the hatching shown in FIG. 3. Applicants admitted prior art does

not teach (or suggest) a loading operation and an unloading operation that are carried out in a specific region on the disk that extends for an angular range smaller than 360°.

In contrast, the present invention solves the problem of limited storage capacity to increase a data recording region on a disk by reducing a data recording prohibit region on the disk. Accordingly, as recited in amended claims 1 and 9, the loading operation and the unloading operation are carried out uniformly in a circumferential direction of the disk within a specific region on the disk that extends through an angular range smaller than 360°.

FIG. 4 illustrates one embodiment of the present invention, and includes a specific region A0 on the disk 111 that has an angular range in the circumferential direction that is smaller than 360°. A head 115 is loaded and unloaded in the specific region A0 on the disk 111. Accordingly, it is possible to record and reproduce data similar to the other regions on the inner peripheral side from the outer periphery of the disk 111 (see Applicants' specification pg. 8, ln. 28 to pg. 9, ln. 2). Since Applicants' admitted prior art does not disclose or suggest a specific region extending through an angular range smaller than 360°, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of amended claims 1 and 9 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 and 8 are dependent either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are considered allowable for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of amended claim 1.

Claims 7 and 10-13 are amended to incorporate the features of their associated independent claim and any intervening claims. For this reason, allowance of claims 7 and

10-13 is respectfully requested. Claim 14 is dependent upon amended claim 13, and is considered allowable based on its chain of dependency.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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